

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-referenced application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A transferable binding apparatus, comprising:

a ship mechanism;

a binding mechanism affixed to said ship mechanism;

a dock mechanism adapted to attach to a ski and adapted to receive said ship mechanism; and

an attaching mechanism adapted to attach said dock mechanism to said ship mechanism;

wherein said binding mechanism comprises a safety-release binding independently controlling engagement and disengagement of a boot into and out of the transferable binding apparatus without adjustment of said ship mechanism or said dock mechanism; and

wherein said transferable binding apparatus is adapted such that engagement of said ship mechanism with said dock mechanism is independent of boot size [[or]] and binding mechanism type.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said attaching mechanism is selected from the group consisting of: screws and wing-nuts.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said attaching mechanism comprises a releasable spring-loaded assembly.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said dock mechanism is permanently attached to the ski at the time of manufacture.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said dock mechanism is obtained separately from the ski and attached at the direction of the user.
6. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said ship mechanism is configured to be rotated with respect to said dock mechanism and said attaching mechanism is engaged by the process of rotation.
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said dock mechanism is adapted in a pocket configuration with at least one open side to receive said ship mechanism and said ship mechanism is adapted to be inserted into said at least one open side of the pocket configuration.

Claims 8-10 (Cancelled)

11. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said binding mechanism is permanently attached to said ship mechanism at the time of manufacture.
12. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said binding mechanism is attached to said ship mechanism at the direction of the user.
13. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a locking mechanism adapted to lock together said dock mechanism, said ship mechanism, and said ski.
14. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said locking mechanism is of a type selected from the group consisting of: key, combination, and electronic.
15. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said dock mechanism and said ship mechanism further comprise attachment enhancing surfaces on the areas that come into contact upon attachment of the ship mechanism to the dock mechanism.
16. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said attachment enhancing surfaces are selected from the group consisting of: frictionally-rough surfaces, adhesive surfaces, and interlocking teeth.
17. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising additional surfaces installed between the dock and the ski to alter parameters and orientation of a skier's boot with respect to the ski.

18. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said ship mechanism is configured to attach to another ship mechanism to form a carrying handle.
19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said binding mechanism is selected from the group consisting of: an alpine ski binding mechanism, a telemark ski binding mechanism, and a cross-country ski binding mechanism.
20. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said ship mechanism and said dock mechanism are in a lock fit configuration, and said lock fit configuration further allows said ship mechanism to lock fit with another ship mechanism.

21. (Currently amended) A method for transferring a binding, comprising the steps of:

affixing a binding mechanism to a ship mechanism;

affixing a dock mechanism to a ski;

inserting said ship mechanism into said dock mechanism; and

attaching said ship mechanism to said dock mechanism;

wherein said binding mechanism comprises a safety-release binding

independently controlling engagement and disengagement of a boot into and out of a transferable binding apparatus without adjustment of said ship mechanism or said dock mechanism; and

wherein said transferable binding apparatus is adapted such that engagement of said ship mechanism with said dock mechanism is independent of boot size [[or]] and binding mechanism type.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21 further comprising the step of:

locking together said ship mechanism, said dock mechanism, and said ski.

Claims 23 - 24 (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) A transferable binding system, comprising:

a ship mechanism;

a binding mechanism affixed to said ship mechanism;

at least two dock mechanisms attached to at least two skis, each of said dock mechanisms being adapted to receive said ship mechanism; and

at least two attaching mechanisms for attaching said dock mechanisms to said ship mechanism;

wherein said ship mechanism is dimensioned and arranged to be inserted interchangeably into said at least two dock mechanisms; and

wherein said transferable binding system is adapted such that engagement of said ship mechanism with each of said at least two dock mechanisms is independent of boot size ~~[[or]]~~ and binding mechanism type.

26. (Currently amended) A transferable binding system, comprising:

at least two ship mechanisms;

at least two binding mechanisms affixed to said at least two ship mechanisms;

a dock mechanism adapted to attach to a ski and to receive said ship mechanisms;

and

an attaching mechanism adapted to attach said dock mechanism to either of said ship mechanisms;

wherein said dock mechanism is dimensioned and arranged to receive interchangeably either of said ship mechanisms; and

wherein said transferable binding system is adapted such that engagement of each of said at least two ship mechanisms with said dock mechanism is independent of boot size [[or]] and binding mechanism type.